

Washington Background**Retiring French Envoy
Is Not Seeking Trouble**

By The Inquirer Washington Bureau Staff

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A T A farewell luncheon at the National Press Club for Henri Bonnet, retiring French Ambassador, a speaker suggested that there ought to be some way to maintain the Ambassador's connection with the United States, a country he has come to understand so well. One suggestion was that he be appointed United States Ambassador to Paris, so that "we could have an ambassador in Paris who could speak French." The other was that the Ambassador leave his charming wife in the United States, and return to France himself.

The Ambassador said he welcomed the suggestions but they presented difficulties.

"In the first place," he said, "you have an Ambassador in Paris, Mr. Dillon (C. Douglas Dillon), who is very popular, who is doing a fine job and who speaks a very good French. If I fell in with this suggestion, I think I would be in trouble with my good friend, Doug Dillon."



M. HENRI BONNET

"And as for your second suggestion that I leave my wife in this country, if I accepted that I should hope I would be in trouble with my wife."

A Senator who attended a diplomatic cocktail party the other night tells this story:

Toward the shank end of the evening the party reached the convivial stage and someone asked one of the satellite ambassadors to sing a song.

"Yes," urged a high-ranking Central Intelligence Agency official, "Sing us a song. I understand you have a very good voice."

"Well, you ought to know," the satellite ambassador replied. "You've got plenty of recordings of it."

The other day the Shah of Iran and his beautiful Empress, here on an official visit, decided they would like to see Marlon Brando in "Desiree." They drafted two Iranian aides and an American State Department official and set off for the theater to watch the matinee. The Shah bought his own tickets and was about to enter the theater when the State Department official decided the royal visitors should have some special attention. So he took them to the theater manager's office where they left their wraps. Meanwhile, the Iranian Embassy, having no idea where their sovereigns were, started a frantic search. Incidentally both the Shah and his Empress like American pictures. On another afternoon Her Imperial Majesty slipped away to see a film at another theater.

—Edited by JOHN C. O'BRIEN

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